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respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections.

Independent claim 1 provides a system for generating an on-line report containing user billing and inventory information. A host site is connected to at least one user computer terminal via an on-line interconnection. The host site includes a database for storing the user billing and inventory information and a processor terminal connected to the on-line interconnection. The processor terminal receives user report requests and sends reports created in response to the received requests and additional on-line user input. The processor terminal includes a view manager and a data manager. The view manager is arranged to generate a set of function commands which can be selectively launched by user input to graphically display a list of available views, each of which contains a report relating to particular user information stored in a database, create a new view and report, and edit a view and report. The data manager is arranged to *relate data maintained independently from the host site and input by a user with the user's billing and inventory data for display as part of a requested report.*

Independent claim 8 provides a method for generating an on-line report containing user billing and inventory information in response to an inquiry from a user computer terminal via an on-line connection. The method includes generating a graphical user interface for on-line access by the user. The graphical user interface provides a set of function commands which can be selectively launched to graphically display a list of available views. Various views relate to particular user information stored in a host site database, create a new view and report, edit a view and report, *allow input of user defined data and data maintained independently from the host site, and relate the independently maintained data with the user's billing and inventory data for display in a report.* A report is created based on user responses to the set of commands. The created report is sent to the user terminal via the on-line connection.

Thus, applicants' invention provides for generating a report relating data maintained independently from the host site with user billing and inventory data held at the host site. An example of such reporting is provided in the application on page 11, lines 14-28 as follows (emphasis added):

Work with Data manager 104 *allows a user to relate the customer billing and inventory data with data the customer*

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provides and maintains. For example, a customer may use particular cost accounting codes which are assigned to particular telephone numbers to track telephony expenses. If a cost accounting table were created containing these codes along with the corresponding assigned telephone numbers, the customer could display this information along with the telephone numbers in a report. Alternatively, the telephony charges could be totaled using the assigned cost accounting, thereby allowing the customer to view billing data using the cost accounting codes as identification terms rather than the telephone number listed in the normal report.

Thus, in the example provided, the report relates customer maintained cost accounting information with host maintained billing and inventory information.

The Examiner fails to find such relations of customer maintained data in Anand. The Examiner asserts that such relations are taught by Peters as follows (emphasis in the original):

Peters discloses: . . . a data manager arranged to relate data maintained *independently from the host site* and input by a user with the user's billing and inventory data for display as part of a request report (col 1, lines 10-15; col 6, lines 4-12; lines 50-67; col 7, lines 1-27; *col 4, lines 63 to col 5, lines 1-8*, a user is required to enter an ID as well as a password, which are information relating to a subscriber and maintained independently from the central storage device, to access [*sic*] to files and data in the central storage device).

The first four passages cited by the Examiner do not appear to relate to the Examiner's assertion of data maintained independently from the host. The passage corresponding to the emphasized citation is reproduced as follows (emphasis added):

Each user terminal 56 allows *cable provider employees* to access various network functions through a *standard log in procedure*. The log in procedure typically requires the user to enter an ID as well as a password. Once a user signs on the network, the user is allowed access to files and data stored in the central storage 68 as well as the ability to use application programs. In the preferred embodiment, users may access an electronic mail software application in order to send data and reports as will be detailed below. Additionally, users may access word processing software applications or spreadsheet software applications. Users may also be allocated storage space in central storage 68 for data files.

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Thus, there are at least two flaws in the Examiner's construction. First, cable system employee passwords and IDs are not data maintained independently from the host site. Second, whatever passwords and IDs might be, they are not in any way related to the user's billing and inventory data for display as part of a requested report.

With regards to the first flaw in the Examiner's construction, claims 1 and 8 provide for data maintained independently from the host site. Without reaching the issue of whether or not passwords and IDs in general qualify as independently maintained data, Peters' passwords and IDs are in no way independent from the host site. Peters discloses local area network 54, computer terminals 56 and server 66 for central storage device 68 entirely within cable service provider 52. Computer terminals 56 are only accessed by cable system employees within cable service provider 52 through passwords and IDs. (*See*, column 4, lines 30-52.) Thus, Peters' passwords and IDs are wholly creatures of host cable service provider site 52. The Examiner is incorrect in asserting that Peters teaches or suggests data maintained independently from the host site.

With regards to the second flaw in the Examiner's construction, claims 1 and 8 provide for relating the independently maintained data with the user's billing and inventory data *for display in a report*. The Examiner asserted that "a user is required to enter an ID as well as a password, which are information relating to a subscriber . . . to access [sic] to files and data in the central storage device." This may be true, but it has nothing to do with displaying the independent data, related to billing and inventory data, in a report. In fact, any system which displayed password and ID information in such a report would be hacked unmercifully, rendering it useless. Thus, the Examiner is incorrect in asserting that Peters teaches or suggests independently maintained data related with the user's billing and inventory data for display in a report.

The Examiner has failed to find all elements of Applicants' independent claims 1 and 8, either taught or suggested, in either Anand or Peters. Thus, there is no need to discuss a lack of motivation to combine Anand and Peters or the failure of such a combination. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and claims 9-12 depend from claim 8. Thus, since claims 1 and 8 are patentable, so are the remaining claims.

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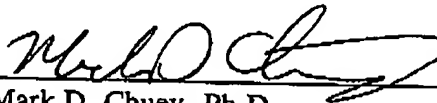
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From the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the references of record in this application, and reconsideration of the claims and passage of the application to issue are courteously solicited. If a telephone conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference with the undersigned is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

No fees are believed to be due on connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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